

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the total consideration given the present application. Claims 1 and 3 are currently pending with claim 1 being an independent claim. Claims 1 and 3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written Restriction Requirement. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting an interview and meeting with the Applicants' representative on May 19, 2006.

During the interview the Examiner indicated that an amendment to claim 1 by deleting the phrase "regardless of said processor" would overcome the alleged 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection. Applicants have amended claim 1 according to the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment is not narrowing and does not give rise to estoppel and in future analysis claim 1 is entitled to its full range of equivalents. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 does not add any new matter to the present application nor does it raise any new issue.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable for the reasons described above and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the present case to allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$1,020.00 is being filed concurrently herewith.

Application No. 09/820,315
Amendment dated June 6, 2006
After Final Office Action of December 19, 2005

Docket No.: 1163-0330P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael K. Mutter, Reg. No. 29,680 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Dated: June 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

Michael K. Mutter

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